

State Dept. review completed

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
18 June 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Arab-Israeli Situation Report
(As of 8:30 AM EDT)

1.

Announcement that Foreign Minister Fanfani will accompany Premier Moro to the Special Session probably indicates that the Italians have decided to make use of Fanfani's prestige as a former President of the General Assembly in the effort to secure support for the inscription of the second item.

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2. Speculation continues on the possibility of Fidel Castro's attending the current emergency session of the General Assembly. It is being rumored that he is trying to arrange transportation to New York. Should he charter a plane from an airline, such as Iberian or Mexican National, regularly using JFK International, Castro could arrive in New York without advance notice.

3. Representatives of the nonaligned states led by Yugoslavia met in New York on 17 June to coordinate strategy.

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the group took a pro-Arab line and empowered Yugoslav Ambassador Lekic to head a steering committee to arrange regular meetings during the General Assembly session.

4. A Newsweek correspondent in London has given the US Embassy an account of a 15 June conversation he had with a Soviet news agency representative who occasionally has used the American newsman as a sounding board on such international issues as Vietnam and Germany.

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According to the US correspondent, the Russian, in a more "definite and precise" manner than usual, proposed a Middle East settlement including no condemnation of Israel, a resolution calling on Israel to withdraw and specifying the internationalization of Jerusalem, and another resolution providing for free passage by all nations through the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Aqaba.

5. The Soviet press has expanded its propaganda campaign on alleged Israeli atrocities and continues to betray sensitivity over Arab disillusionment with Moscow. The US Embassy in Moscow has noted, however, a somewhat less antagonistic note toward Israel in an Izvestia commentary appealing for Israeli "common sense." The article implied that the present Middle East situation holds some promise for Israel if it will withdraw troops and renounce the use of force. Pravda on 17 June, however, repeated claims of Israeli atrocities in Syria and Sinai, and reported Communist, Baath, and trade union efforts in Syria to combat Western and Chinese propaganda on the inadequacy of Soviet support of the Arabs. The official Soviet Communist Party paper also contained an assault on US "sabotage" of peace-making efforts in the UN Security Council. The same line was taken by a 17 June TASS report from New York, which also asserted that "almost 90 countries" in the UN endorsed the Soviet proposal to convene the special UN General Assembly session, and that "only Israel and the main patron of the Israeli aggression, the United States, openly rejected this initiative."

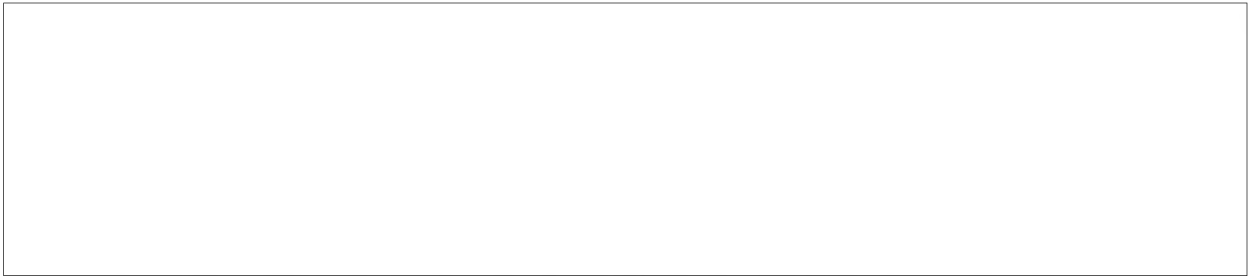
6. On the eve of the General Assembly meeting, three Israeli ministers reiterated that Israel will not withdraw from the territory it recently conquered without major concessions--particularly a peace treaty--from the Arabs. Foreign Minister Eban said last night that Israel has "no intention of squandering" its victories except by turning them into "permanent peace." Minister without Portfolio Begin echoed Eban in declaring that "until we have peace, we shall not budge from an inch of territory," and Minister of Information Galili said that a permanent peace treaty is "inseparable from the territorial questions." In an interview earlier yesterday Eban said the Israeli delegation to the UN will reject all attempts to turn back the clock, and predicted a long and bitter political struggle.

7. The Arab foreign ministers' conference in Kuwait ended with a brief communique which stated the ministers had discussed the situation in the Middle East, and "firmly stood by their previous decision to cut off the oil." The communique gives no indication that any agreement on tactics or policies has actually been reached, but the brevity of the meeting--which will be resumed in New York--may have been as important a factor in preventing a more definite announcement as chronic Arab infighting.

8. The ban on the export of Libyan crude continues despite diplomatic pressure from the major European importers and near unanimity in the Libyan cabinet in favor of resuming at least some exports, according to the US Ambassador in Tripoli. The work stoppage by oil workers which began 12 June, and which has inhibited resumption of exports, may be ended tomorrow (19 June).

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10. There are signs that at least some Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank area of Jordan have become resigned to the necessity of reaching some sort of accommodation with Israel. Rouhi Khatib, a fervent Palestinian and the last mayor of Jordanian Jerusalem, told a US Consulate General officer recently that he feared Arabs would have to learn to "live with the Jews," and that perhaps a "new Palestine" could be built in collaboration with the Israelis. The Consul General commented that this view is similar to that now being expressed by many of the mission's Palestinian contacts. This attitude is most unlikely, however, to become the dominant Palestinian viewpoint regarding a settlement. Most Palestinians almost certainly will adhere to the general Arab position that Israel must withdraw from its conquered territories.



12. The 79 members of the Soviet diplomatic staff in Israel sailed from Haifa harbor early this morning aboard the Soviet ship Felix Dzerjinsky. The Finnish Embassy in Haifa will take care of Soviet interests in Israel.



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
18 June 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Arab-Israeli Situation Report
(As of 4:30 PM EDT)

1. Representatives of the non-aligned and Asian nations meeting in New York have been unable to come up with any positive course of action which might contribute to a solution of the crisis. The general mood at the meeting of the Asian group was one of "pessimism" and "helplessness," with most believing the UN can play only a limited role. The Indian delegation has been active in both groups and appears to be playing a major role in behind-the-scenes discussions at the UN. The Indians, in calling now for the withdrawal of Israeli forces behind the 1949 armistice line, are adopting a line which is, in a legalistic sense, even more pro-Arab.

2. Israel has accused Syria of violating the cease-fire. According to an Israeli army spokesman, at 9:30 a.m. EDT, three Syrian armored vehicles drove to the truce line north of Al Qunaytirah and opened fire on Israeli forces before being driven off.

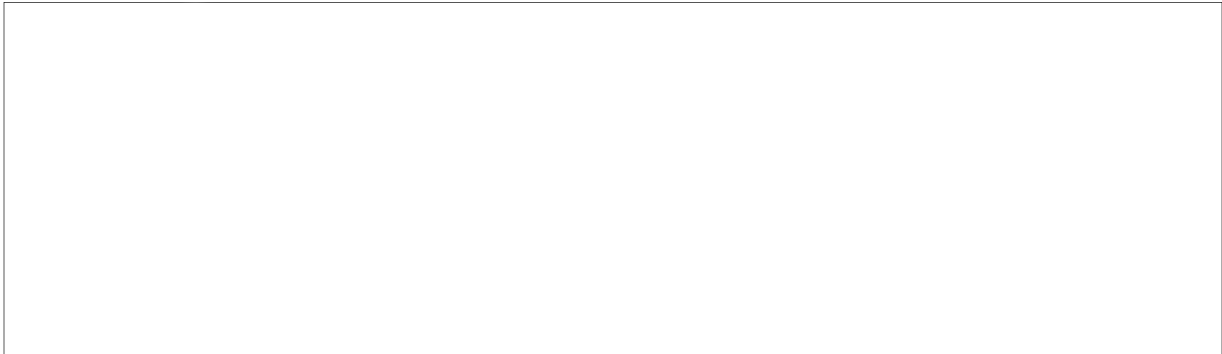
3. The Israelis put on a display in Tel Aviv today of some of the equipment captured from the Egyptians. Included in the display is one of the nine captured Soviet SA-2 missiles, a gas decontamination unit, and a radar artillery tracking vehicle. Press reports say that Israeli military experts are studying the captured missiles and the launching installation located in the Sinai desert. The press quotes Israeli sources as saying that several foreign embassy officials have expressed interest in the missiles but that no foreign experts will be allowed to examine them.

7. Moscow radio has charged in its Arabic broadcasts that Radio Peking is "attempting to broadcast the seeds of nonconfidence between the Arabs and the Soviets." Peking is said to have announced that the Israeli ship Dolphin--the first Israeli vessel to transit the Straight of Tiran after the Israelis gained control of the passage--was in fact a Soviet merchant ship which was "escorted and hailed by Israeli torpedo boats." Moscow answers the Chinese charge that the Soviet Union is colluding with the "imperialists," by charging in turn that Peking is mouthing the propaganda of the "imperialist" Israelis.

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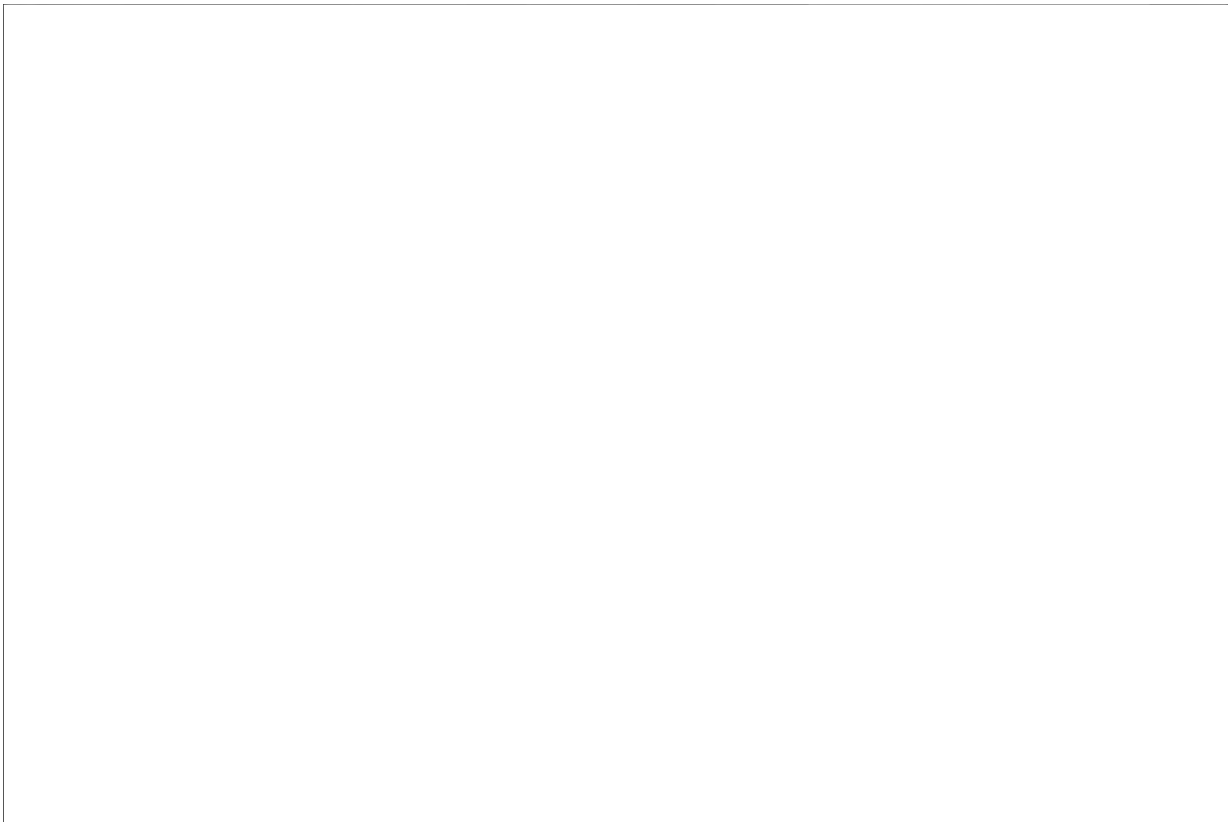


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9. The Saudis themselves are aware that their image is tarnished in the eyes of other Arab states as a result of their inaction. The US Ambassador in Jidda reports that King Faysal now feels that he must push hard for the US to take positions which will protect Arab interests in order to demonstrate that his policy of friendship with the US "pays off." The Ambassador feels that the Saudis are as unlikely as any other Arab to endorse direct talks with the Israelis, and quotes one of Faysal's key advisers as urging that the US take an unequivocal position that Israel achieve no territorial gains from the recent conflict.

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